WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus, comprising:

an input circuit for receiving a video signal indicative of playback of a first recorded medium;

a detection circuit for detecting a horizontal synchronization signal component of said video signal; and

a control circuit for controlling pauses in recording of video information from said video signal responsive to detecting said horizontal synchronizing signal.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said detection circuit comprises a horizontal lock detector for determining whether said horizontal synchronization signal is received at appropriate intervals, said horizontal lock detector producing an error signal indicative of the absence of a valid horizontal synchronization signal.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said detection circuit further comprises an error counter, for counting the number of horizontal synchronization signal errors during a predefined time period and indicating whether a threshold level of horizontal synchronization signal errors has been exceeded.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said horizontal lock detector is responsive to a clocking signal.

5. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a vertical lock detector, for determining whether a vertical synchronization signal is received at an appropriate time interval.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said detection circuit further comprises a countdown timer, responsive to a received horizontal synchronization signal, for

producing an output signal indicative of a time interval during which a vertical synchronization signal is expected.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said detection circuit further comprises a second error counter, for counting the number of vertical synchronization signal errors during a predefined time period and indicating whether a vertical horizontal synchronization signal error threshold has been exceeded.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

said detection circuit comprises a SYNC separator, for separating at least horizontal synchronization signals from said video signal; and

a horizontal lock detector for determining whether a horizontal synchronization signal is received at appropriate intervals, said horizontal lock detector producing an error signal indicative of the absence of a valid horizontal synchronization signal.

9. A system, comprising:

a first video playback device providing a signal indicative of video recorded on a first medium during playback of said video; and

a second video playback device responsive to said signal for selectively recording playback of said video on a second medium with pauses in said recording during at least one of an absence of video and playback of unacceptable video by said first video playback device.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein unacceptable video received by said second video playback device has associated with it synchronizing signals exhibiting at least one of degraded wave shapes and improper synchronizing intervals.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said synchronizing signals associated with said playback video are evaluated by said second playback device.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein said second video playback device comprises:

an input circuit for receiving said playback video;

a detection circuit for detecting a horizontal synchronization signal component of said playback video; and

a control circuit for controlling pauses in recording of video information from said playback video responsive to detecting said horizontal synchronizing signal.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein said detection circuit comprises a horizontal lock detector for determining whether a horizontal synchronization signal is received at appropriate intervals, said horizontal lock detector producing an error signal indicative of the absence of a valid horizontal synchronization signal.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said detection circuit further comprises an error counter, for counting the number of horizontal synchronization signal errors during a predefined time period and indicating whether a threshold level of horizontal synchronization signal errors has been exceeded.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said horizontal lock detector is responsive to a clocking signal.

16. The system of claim 13, further comprising a vertical lock detector, for determining whether a vertical synchronization signal is received at an appropriate time interval.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein said detection circuit further comprises a countdown timer, responsive to said horizontal synchronization signal, for producing an output signal indicative of a time interval during which a vertical synchronization signal is expected.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein said detection circuit further comprises a second error counter, for counting the number of vertical synchronization signal errors during a predefined time period and indicating whether a vertical horizontal synchronization signal error threshold has been exceeded.

19. The system of claim 9, wherein:

said detection circuit comprises a SYNC separator, for separating at least horizontal synchronization signals from said video signal; and

a horizontal lock detector for determining whether a horizontal synchronization signal is received at appropriate intervals, said horizontal lock detector producing an error signal indicative of the absence of a valid horizontal synchronization signal.

20. A method for controlling a recording device, comprising the steps of:

evaluating synchronizing components associated with a received video signal to determine if said received video signal provides acceptable video;

enabling said recording device to record said received video in response to a positive evaluation of said synchronizing components; and

causing said recording device to enter a pause mode of operation in response to a negative evaluation of said synchronizing components associated with said received video.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:

separating said synchronization components from said received video signal.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said step of evaluating comprises the steps of:

separating said synchronization components from said received video signal;

determining whether a horizontal synchronization signal is received at appropriate intervals; and

providing indicium of the absence of a valid horizontal synchronization signal.